

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for engaging, rotating and removing the cap of a tire inflation valve stem wherein, the apparatus comprises
 - a handle member
 - a generally rigid shaft member having an inboard end attached to the handle member and further having an outboard end
 - a cap removal unit including a resiliently deformable cap engaging member having a longitudinal axis, an inboard end connected to the outboard end of the shaft member, and an outboard end provided with a passageway that extends at least partially into the cap engaging member wherein, the passageway is dimensioned to frictionally engage a cap of a tire inflation valve stem.
2. The apparatus as in claim 1; wherein, the cap engaging member is further provided with a tensioning band spaced inwardly from the outboard end of the cap engaging member.
3. The apparatus as in claim 1; wherein, said passageway extends along the entire longitudinal axis of the tubular cap engaging member.
4. The apparatus as in claim 3; wherein, said passageway has an inboard end dimensioned to frictionally engage the outboard end of the shaft member.
5. The apparatus as in claim 4; wherein, the cap engaging member is further provided with a tensioning band spaced inwardly from the outboard end of the cap engaging member.
6. The apparatus as in claim 5; wherein, the cap engaging member is further provided with a securing band for captively engaging the shaft member relative to the cap engaging member.

7. The apparatus as in claim 4; wherein, the cap engaging member is further provided with a securing band for captively engaging the cap engaging member relative to the shaft member.
8. The apparatus as in claim 7; wherein, the cap engaging member is further provided with a tensioning band spaced inwardly from the outboard end of the cap engaging member.